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TAGS: [PARM](#) [MTCRE](#) [PREL](#) [ETTC](#) [IR](#) [AE](#)
SUBJECT: UAEG SAYS ITWON'T TRANSFER UAV TECHNOLOGY TO IRAN

REF: A. STTE 18426
[1](#)B. ABU DHABI 0275

Classified By AMBASSADOR MICHELE J. SISON FOR REASONS 1.4 B & D

[1](#)1. (S/NF) On February 20, Econchief met with Ministry of Interior Major Mohammed Al-Kitbie, Coordinator for the UAE's Counterproliferation Task force, to discuss refTel demarche. Al-Kitbie asked rhetorically whether the USG really thought the AEG would transfer its sensitive military technology to Iran, given the security concerns that the AE had with that country. He added that Econchie could ask "any Emirati on the street, not even the people in the Ministry of Interior of Defense" whether they thought this was a likely scenario and that the universal answer would be no. He noted that the UAE shared our concerns about Iran and did not want to see the Iranians get WMD or sensitive dual use goods. Al-Kitbie also stated that the UAEG had signed a non-transfer and end-use certificate and would not violate those terms. As matter of policy, he stated, the UAEG would not violate any country's end-use agreement. In any case, he said that he would ensure appropriate UAG officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UAE military were also aware of the information.

[1](#)2. (S/NF) Comment: Al-Kitbie's response confirms our view that the UAEG is not likely to transfer its military technology to Iran, which it views as its primary potential strategic threat. Although the UAE is a major transshipment point, the UAEG itself has been scrupulous about abiding by its end-use obligations. It has been the UAE's private sector -- rather than government-owned entities -- that has posed diversion risks. End Comment.

[1](#)3. (C) Note: AlKitbie also works for BG Abdul Aziz Al-Sharify, the Director of Preventive Security for the Ministry of Interior, and the Vice Chair of the UAE's new Commodity Control Committee, which will have oversight responsibility for the UAE's export control procedures. BG Al-Sharify deputized Al-Kitbie for the meeting. End Note.
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